

the Post-Dispatch, he ran up Connecticut Avenue to cover the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. For some of the most momentous events of the second half of the 20th Century, Richard Dudman wrote the first draft of history.

After retiring and moving to Ellsworth and Little Cranberry Island in Maine, Mr. Dudman continued to contribute to the Post-Dispatch and wrote more than 1,000 editorials for the Bangor Daily News. Among his many accolades are the prestigious George Polk Career Award in Journalism and induction into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dudman combined his journalistic professionalism with a spirit of serving others. In 2014, he and his wife, Helen, were presented with the Golden Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to community service, a quality that ran through their remarkable 69 years of marriage.

In this time of sorrow, I offer my deep condolences to Helen and their family. I hope they will find comfort in Richard's inspiring legacy and in a life well-lived. It has been said that we all have a birth date and a death date, with a dash in between. It is what we do with our dash that counts. Richard Dudman's dash was extraordinarily long, and he made it count. He filled it with passion, professionalism, and dedication. May his memory inspire us all to do the same.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT "TREY" WALKER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate a tremendous airman, CMSgt Robert "Trey" Walker, on his recent promotion to the highest enlisted rank within the U.S. Air Force, effective August 1, 2017. Selection for chief master sergeant is extremely competitive, as only 1 percent of the Air Force's entire enlisted population may hold the pay grade of E-9 at any time. Chief Walker clearly epitomizes the finest qualities of a military leader, as evidenced by his distinguished career and elevation to the highest enlisted level of leadership within the Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Walker entered the U.S. Air Force on September 11, 1996, as a voice network systems specialist and was later selected for retraining into the field of imagery intelligence. Chief Walker's honorable service has spanned numerous overseas and stateside assignments including four European countries, two States, and the Nation's Capital. He has also completed several deployments in support of Operations Desert Fox, Northern Watch, and Enduring Freedom. Chief Walker currently serves as the deputy chief of strategic basing and force structure in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force's legislative liaison directorate.

Chief Master Sergeant Walker has chosen to repeatedly lead his airmen

by example. Despite years of challenging work schedules and countless military obligations, Chief Walker elected to make his education a priority. Since 2005, he has earned two associate degrees, a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a graduate-level certificate. Furthermore, Chief Walker's outstanding performance has garnered numerous accolades, including the 548th ISR Group's Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award, the Non-commissioned Officer Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award, the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award and Academic Achievement Award.

As a true testament to Chief Master Sergeant Walker's exceptional career, he was selected to represent the U.S. Air Force on Capitol Hill as its sole enlisted legislative fellow in 2016. I was fortunate to have Chief Walker spend the year in my office as an integral part of Team BOOZMAN and was pleased with his professionalism, character, and devotion to duty. His tireless efforts were critical to the passage and implementation of Public Law 144-292, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016. Moreover, Chief Walker led a bipartisan effort to protect the Defense Department's basic allowance for housing by educating 18 Senators on the impact for military members. Finally, he played a key role in the successful execution of the Senate Air Force Caucus agenda by increasing service engagement opportunities with Members of Congress.

Chief Walker, congratulations on your well-deserved promotion and successful career thus far. I am so proud of your many accomplishments and wish the very best for you and your family in the future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" GORDON, JR.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansas World War II veteran and civic activist Richard "Dick" Gordon, Jr., who recently passed away.

Dick dedicated his life to regional conservation and civic issues. He encouraged involvement in local government and leaves behind a legacy as a respected community leader.

His father, Colonel Richard Gordon, Sr., a decorated WWI and WWII veteran, set an example that his son followed. During World War II, the younger Gordon served as second lieutenant in the Army's 13th Field artillery unit, 24th Infantry Division, and earned recognition for his service to our country.

As a community leader in the Fort Smith area, Dick made a big impact on numerous agencies and projects. He championed veterans' issues and helped address public school issues with the help of the parent teacher association. He formed the public awareness com-

mittee in Fort Smith, which allowed residents to interact more with government officials.

Dick helped develop a bird sanctuary in conjunction with the Audubon Society earning him the nickname "The Bird Man."

Additionally, Dick was active in the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department and the U.S. Forest Service. He used these platforms to help bring environmental consciousness to Arkansas.

His civic involvement and willingness to help the community made Dick a well-respected community leader, even though he never held elected office. Then-Fort Smith Mayor Bill Vines made Dick an honorary city director.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they mourn his loss, but I know that they are also incredibly proud of the legacy that Dick leaves behind.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SPENCER M. HOULDIN

• Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Spencer M. Houldin of Roxbury, CT, as he nears the end of his term as the 112th chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big I. Spencer was installed as chairman of the Big I in September 2016, becoming the youngest person to serve as chairman in the association's 120-year history. Throughout his term, even when he and I disagreed, Spencer was always a thoughtful and dedicated advocate for independent insurance agents.

Prior to becoming the chairman, Spencer often served as a leader in the independent agency system. He chaired the Big I national Government Affairs Committee in 2009 and served as the president of the Connecticut Big I association in 2004. In these leadership positions, Spencer consistently promoted an environment where independent agents, in both Connecticut and across the country, could both thrive in their business and represent their customers with the highest quality of care.

Spencer has consistently served his community in Connecticut. He resides in Roxbury, CT, with his wife, Carol, and two sons, Chandler and Carter. Spencer is president of Ericson Insurance Services in Washington Depot, CT, where he has 25 years of experience as a personal insurance advisor, working alongside his brother Peter. He currently sits on the board of the Western Connecticut Health Network, which is comprised of Danbury Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, and New Milford Hospital. He has been involved with the health network in various capacities over the past 20 years. He recently co-chaired a \$72 million capital campaign for Danbury and New Milford Hospitals. In July 2017, Litchfield Magazine named Spencer one of Litchfield County, Connecticut's 25 most influential people.

Today, I am pleased to join Spencer's colleagues from across Connecticut and